

Top of the Hill

Volume 8, Number 3

MBA Junior School

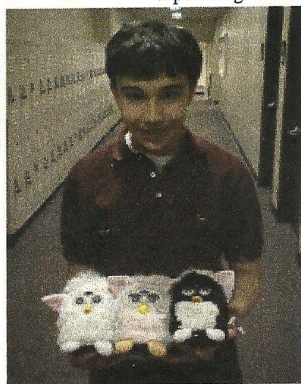
April 2003

Toys of Our Time

Compiled by Gentry Smith - Features Editor

As we eighth graders have grown, we have gone through many trends. These fashionable fancies have come, passed, and changed over our childhood, and although we enjoyed them, they probably made a substantial hole in the pockets of our parents and grandparents. Here is an overview of the trends that the *Top of the Hill* staff has compiled:

At the age

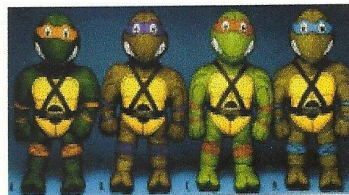


FUUUURBIES!

of four and five, we were into the very hip Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The

turtles, Donatello, Raphael, Leonardo, and Michaelangelo, were one of the best obsessions we invested in. As we watched the cartoon movies and played with our green action figures, we weren't even

imagining what we would devote our time to next. The turtles receive a 10/10.



Michaelangelo, Donatello, Raphael, and Leonardo

When we rolled into the sixth years of our lives, pogs inhabited Nashville. These little, round discs had

Continued on the next page

From the Hill to the Front

By Daniel McGugin - History Teacher Extraordinaire

If a poll were taken of my classmates when we were in high school, I have no doubt who would have been selected as 'Most Likely to Join the Military'...Brent Osborn. Brent was a die-hard, just look at the pictures in his senior bio. There is one of him with his older

brothers, one of whom was in the army and the other in the navy. There is a picture of Brent wearing his Navy sweat shirt. Another picture shows Brent with his Army hat. The most telling picture



Allen Cermak, Brent Osborn, Adam Michael, MBA Class of 1996

preparing for battle. Early in our freshman year Brent acquired the nickname 'Ranger B'. The name stuck. Whenever I talk to him I always lead the conversation off with the same thing we called him in high school.

Brent is presently in Kuwait. He is a 1st Lt. with the 4th division in the Army. He is in charge of an armored personnel carrier. Brent has spent time in Alabama, Colorado and most recently in Korea for a year. According to our classmate and former MBA teacher Adam Michael, Brent is in good spirits. We all look forward to his safe return.

If the same poll were taken when we were in school, Allen Cermak would have received my vote as least

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—TOYS CONT.—

cool designs and pictures on them, and kids were supposed to play some kind of game with them; however, many youngsters just got them and put them in a box. From what I understand, this fad got started from a promotion in Happy Meals at McDonald's. The pogs come short with a 6/10.

Next comes the noisy, annoying Furby, during our seventh years



Pogs: a really annoying fad

of living. I never participated in this fad, but many did. The furry, fat, battery-powered toy would make noises like "OO LA LA!" or "FURRRBY!" They were definitely not the longest-lasting trend set throughout times but were one of the more expensive ones. Their limited conversational skills wore out their welcome quickly, and they were soon exiled into the upper shelves of our closets. The Furbies were a disgrace to the trends, so they receive a 5/10.

Beanie Babies, which were small, soft, cleverly-named animals, proved an excellent way to waste money in the second grade. The constant unavailability from store to store and the memorization of what days stores would receive new shipments often controlled many people's lives. Five

dollars would buy a Princess Di, Erin, or Millennium Bears. Other fuzzies became quite controversial; the Beanie Baby company (TY) was sued by Jerry Garcia because of the tie-dye bear, Garcia, and there were other lawsuits over a rooster, Doodle, and a bull, Tobacco. When all our shelves, tables, and cabinets were glutted with

those little Tamagachis were always displeased with their living conditions, incessantly demanding to be fed ("I'm hungry!"), loved, or put to sleep. It was frustrating to spend \$20 on one of them and not have the inanimate object love you. They were fun at the time, but as we look back, we realize they were rather pointless. Those skate shoes weren't easy to come



The almighty Razor Scooter

Beanie Babies, our interests shifted to other toys. Though they were loved by many, their pointlessness and lack of fun factor (for some people) sets their rating at an 8/10.

by, either. The Tamagachi receives a 6/10 for its stubbornness. The skate shoes are granted a 7/10. If they were cheaper, they would receive a better rating.



Stockton Beveridge's extensive collection of Beanie Babies

Third grade, or at eight years old, the children of Nashville had two fads, Tamagachis and skate shoes. With these, kids could roll around on their shoes while playing with their little digital pets. The skate shoes were quite nifty and easy to handle; however,

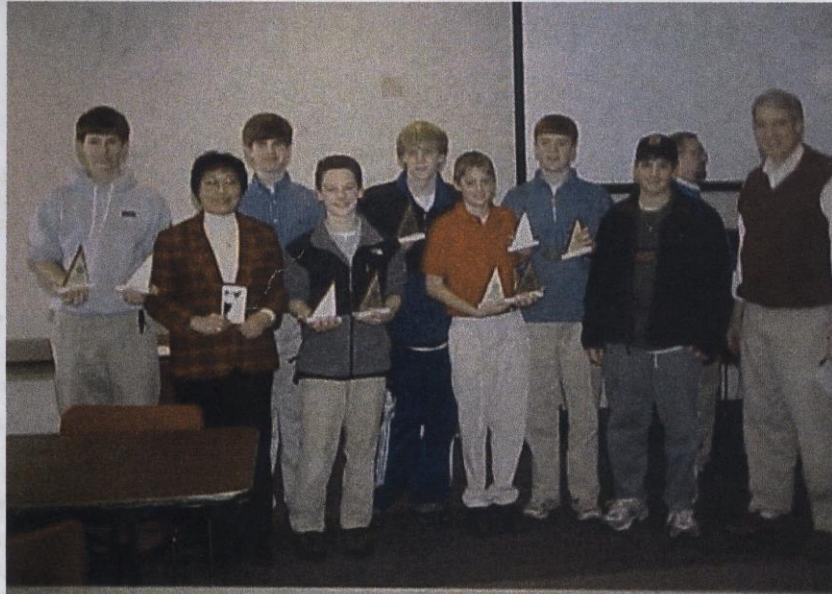
a 9/10.

It is now time for the doozey of the bunch:

In fifth grade, the Empire of

Continued on page 19

—MATHLETICS—



(From left to right) Matthew Kimball, Mrs. Maggie Qian, Austin Branstetter, Jamie Fletcher, Chet Gormley, Will Hannon, Kyle Davis, Jamie Berk, Dr. Shackleford. NOT PICTURED: Chase Altenbern

Another Successful Year for the MathCounts Team

By The Mathlete

In early February, the Mathletes (Chase Altenbern, Jamie Berk, Austin Branstetter, Kyle Davis, Jamie Fletcher, Chet Gormley, Will Hannon, and Matthew Kimball) went to the Nashville MathCounts competition. After a few hours of painstaking problems and a drawn-out announcement of the winners, it was revealed that Will, Chet, Jamie F., Matthew, and Kyle achieved the 6th, 5th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st places, respectively.

Will, Kyle, Jamie F., and Matthew also received the award for the 1st place team. They, along with Chet, moved on to the State competition, where Jamie Fletcher placed 9th and Kyle Davis placed 1st. In addition, the team placed 1st in the state, and Kyle Davis will go the National competition in May, where he most certainly will be blown out of the water by some of the more "dedicated" competitors. But recently, we received the scores from the City competition, and a scandal

was revealed! The team of Jamie B., Chet, Chase, and Austin actually should have received the 2nd place award and should have been recognized, but they were not counted as an official team. The Mathletes had a good year and would like to thank Mrs. Qian for all her work and support. The Mathletes would also like to thank Dr. Shackleford for support at the competitions and his interesting assembly announcements.

HUMOR

How to Pop Pop's Top

Fiasco of the 5th Period

Compiled by Jamie Fletcher

Each day after lunch, I make my way to Mr. Popovich's fifth period English class for one period of "learning." With constant, meaningless questions and comments from Guy McClure, pointless statements from Ben Satyshur, irrelevant questions from Tate

school?"- Ben Satyshur asking one of the dumbest questions I have ever heard.

"I don't get it. It wasn't that bad of a question."- Guy McClure wondering why Mr. Popovich insulted Ben's intelligence after his question about

Pope John Paul II.

"I know a lot about politics."- Guy McClure telling one of the biggest lies that I have ever heard.

"Is *A Separate Peace* a true story?"- Tate McNeilly after Mr. Popovich had already told the class that it was not.

obvious answer to Tate.

"It never said that!"- Tate McNeilly failing to realize that the title of the book that he was currently reading was *Ellen Foster*.

"I don't get it!"- Guy McClure baffled by one of Mr. Popovich's questions. Mr. Popovich explains the correct answer and Guy lies, saying, "That's what I said!" "No you didn't!" You said, 'I don't get it,' Mr. Popovich replies.

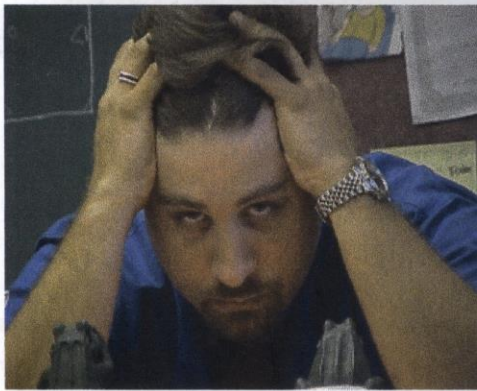
Mr. Popovich stating a fact, "You're an Indian giver!"

Tate McNeilly to Harlan after he took back his highlighter, "No, he's an Afro-Indian giver."

"I was going to say that!"- Guy McClure, lying after Mr. Popovich explained an answer to the class.

"NO, you said something that couldn't have been more wrong!"- Mr. Popovich responding to Guy's lie.

"What comes after Z?"- Tate McNeilly



The effect of repeated exposure to guys like Guy

McNeilly, and the occasional stupid statement made by one of the other members of the class, accompanied by daily attempts, (most failing but some succeeding), to get Mr. Popovich off the subject, he has called this class "the worst class that [he's] ever taught." Our ridiculous antics in his class have prompted him to say things like "I'm done! I'm out of this profession! I'm going to kill myself! This is not worth it!" Here are some of the statements made and some of the questions asked which have almost driven Mr. Popovich to the point of insanity:

"Is Pope John Paul II a Catholic

- "Of course it's true! It has World War II in it!"- Guy McClure believing that if a book contains a historical event, it's a true story.

"What's her name?" Tate McNeilly asking the name of the main character in a book entitled *Ellen Foster*.

"It's Ellen, Ellen Foster." Guy McClure stating the



Typical reactions to Guy's questions

HUMOR

asks the question to which nobody knows the answer.

- "Do you have your balls?"- Guy McClure asking Mr. Popovich if he has the baseballs which he threatens to throw at Guy if he does something stupid. (It's a wonder that Guy still hasn't gotten nailed in the head yet.)

- "Do you want to learn?"- Mr. Popovich asking the class the most important question of all.

- "NO!" Guy McClure enthusiastically responded.

- "The Bible is written in first person."- Guy McClure faking a false statement.

- "No, it's not! Does God refer to Himself as 'I'?"- Mr. Popovich shooting down Guy's claim

- "But it's the Word of God!"- Guy McClure making a religious suggestion.

- "That proved absolutely nothing!"- Mr. Popovich telling that truth.

- "Cullen, shut up!"- Guy McClure yelling to a silent Cullen.

- "You mean 'Shut u p , Harlan!'"- Jamie telling Guy that he made a mistake.

- "That's what I said, 'Shut up, Harlan!'"- Guy McClure making a false statement

- "I pay attention!"- Guy McClure lying (Are you beginning to see a pattern here?)

- "Well, if you do pay attention, you're getting ripped off!"- Mr. Popovich proving that the truth actually does

hurt.

- "Guy, you're the textbook example of listening but not hearing."- Mr. Popovich

- "What?"- Guy McClure proving Mr. Popovich's point.

- "Jamie, you're an idiot!"- Guy McClure (Does anyone else see the irony here?)

- "I don't know, I just said it!" Guy McClure giving a reason for an idiotic answer and maybe a reason for why everything he says makes no sense.

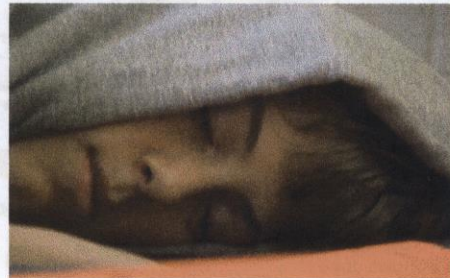
- "I hate the France."- Cullen Brown not knowing that France is the country and the French are its people.

- "No!"- Cullen
- "No!"- Ben Satyshur
- "No!"- Benton Harvey
- "No!"- Me
- "No!"- Tate McNeilly
- "No!"-

- "You don't!"- Mr. Popovich telling the truth.

- "I know!"- Guy

- "You don't!"- Mr. Popovich.



Harlan: shuffling off his mortal coil



"I don't get it!"

Harlan Dodson

- "Yes!"- Guy McClure, the minority.

- "The formula for power is force plus speed."- Mr. Popovich explaining about baseball bats

- "Plus chicken."- Harlan Dodson making a comment that makes no sense whatsoever.

- "I know!"- Guy McClure, lying.

- "I know!"- Guy

- "You don't!"- Mr. Popovich.

- "Know!"- Guy.

- "No!"- Mr. Popovich.

- "Know!"- Guy.

- "No!"- Mr. Popovich.



A group of boys formerly considered a class

- "I don't talk that much!"- Guy McClure lying (yet again).

- "What have I ever said in this class that was stupid? I mean, really?"- Guy McClure (Read this article and see if you still feel that way, Guy.)

WAR NEWS

likely to join the military. I would have felt this way not because Allen wasn't tough (he was very tough) but because he was so peaceful. I never saw him show any aggression towards another person during our four years together at MBA. He was kind to everyone and a true man of service. As service club president, Allen created many projects that are still active today.

Allen is also a 1st Lt. with the 4th division in the Army. He successfully completed Ranger school after his graduation from Boston College. Allen's primary job is as an artillery spotter. He is also in Kuwait.

Fletcher was a year ahead of me at MBA; he was a true warrior in high school. As a strong safety, Fletcher was the hardest hitter on the football team. I remember blacking out twice during my high school football days. One of those

times came after a collision with Fletcher. Our country is lucky to have someone like Fletcher fighting in Iraq. I found

out what kind of fighter he was after witnessing him and my brother get in a fist fight in the parking lot my junior year.

It was quite a sight.

I know Fletcher is in Iraq flying helicopters. We all look forward to seeing him return safely.

Microbe War Poll

By Tipper Austin

A poll taken by 8th Graders reveals their thoughts and feelings about the war in Iraq. The results are close to what one might expect, but there are a few surprises; as always, there is a very diverse group of thoughts. I found that 46% of those polled believe that it is necessary to forcefully disarm and remove Saddam Hussein now. This opinion may have been encouraged by fear of future attacks or the fact that troops have already been

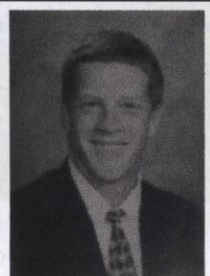
deployed. The opinion that more could have been done to peacefully disarm and remove Saddam is the next most common opinion, landing 22% of those polled. Next, 14% said that they had "other ideas" for the situation, usually involving larger weapons, such as nuclear bombs, which could bring great political consequences upon the United States. 12% believe that the war is unnecessary and unjustified, usually pointing to lack of evidence and Iraqi civilian casualties. The last 6% were



2nd Lt. Allen Cermak ('96)
Army (In Kuwait)



Major Hughes (Brother of Brian Hughes)
2nd Battalion, 25th Marines
Attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Nasiriyah



1st Lt. Brent Osborn ('96)
Army
Stationed in Kuwait



1st Lt. Fletcher Tidwell ('95)
Marines
In the heart of Iraq. He flies Cobra Attack Helicopters.



Capt. Bo Mixon ('93)
Army Intelligence
In Kuwait; Wife had baby 2 weeks after he left.

unsure about the war, citing overload of information and valid points on both sides of the argument. Though these results illustrate that people are split over this war, most people are supporting the troops and keeping them in their thoughts.

WORDS FROM THE WISE

Matt McCord – When I was about six years old, my grandmother, Mimi, would tell me to tuck my ears inside of a hat or else they would stick out. This advice made me look absolutely ridiculous, but at a young age, I did not know how stupid I looked.

Matt Crook – My dad has given me lots of advice about fishing: how to cast, how to tie lures, which lures to use in certain conditions, and how to be patient.

Nathan Sears – My dad has given me lots of advice about golf. Since I am fairly small, I do not hit the ball very far. My dad said to work really hard at putting and chipping so that if I played someone who hit it farther than I do, I could beat them by putting better.

Denis Bermudez – Mr. Woolsey gave me some good advice. He said, "Denis, you can be an A+ student in my class if you would stop getting nervous on tests." Mr. Woolsey's advice really gave me more confidence, and I am making A's on his tests.

Mark Piana – My grandmother gave me some good advice. Before I moved to Tennessee, I was really upset that I had to leave Boston. My grandmother said, "Always look at the good side of things and go in open-minded." I followed her advice, and by the end of the first year in my new home, I was very happy.

Nick Heyden – A helpful piece of advice is "to stay below the radar." When someone more powerful than you is irritable, following this advice can help keep you out of trouble. Whether the situation is an angry teacher, a hostage situation, or even a rampaging mother, staying below the radar is the way to

go.

Clayton Foster – My father tells me to appreciate what I have because it might be taken away from me. This advice has helped me to be nicer to my brother because he's not going to be home much longer.

Nick Berkladich – I hear "never slack off" a lot from my mom and dad. They tell me never to get behind in my studying because it will always hurt me in the long run, but it is a lot more fun to go out with friends than sit at home studying.

Will Earthman – My dad sometimes gives me advice on golf. "Just don't

for giving good advice, sometimes they steer you wrong. My mom said that joining Cub Scouts would show me a code of honor and let me experience companionship and teamwork. I sat through a meeting listening to an old man brag about all the badges he earned through his sixty-five years of loyalty to the Scouts. I listened to speeches about "The Joy of Scouts." Luckily, my dad was with me, and as soon as we got in the car, he said, "Forget that, son, baseball is for you." From that day forward, I have been playing baseball and have enjoyed every minute of it.

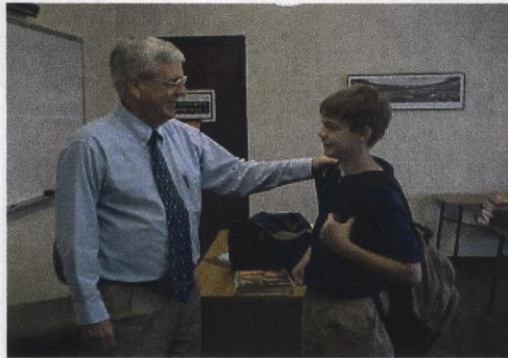
Miller Sherrill – One of the most important pieces of advice I have received is "be yourself." Sure, I do some stuff like other people, but I am also very different. I love to skateboard, and not many people at MBA do that. I would hate to play golf; everybody and their dog play golf. I hate North Face jackets because everybody has at least one. I also like the old music, like Van Halen and Led Zeppelin.

Alex Smith – My grandfather usually gives me war advice. He always tells me that if I ever go to war, just don't get shot. He was shot in World War II.

Weston Iler – My grandma once gave me some good advice. She said, "Weston, don't give anyone advice unless you know what you're talking about." I wish that everyone's grandmother had told them this because sometimes when advice is given to me, the people giving it have no clue what they are talking about.

Ben Daniel – The advice that has really affected me throughout my life is "Just because it is practice doesn't mean you should not try hard because every time you beat out somebody else, your

Continued on page 9



"Back in my day, Zach, girls chased me all over the baseball field because I used, what I like to call, the 'Woolsey Method.'"

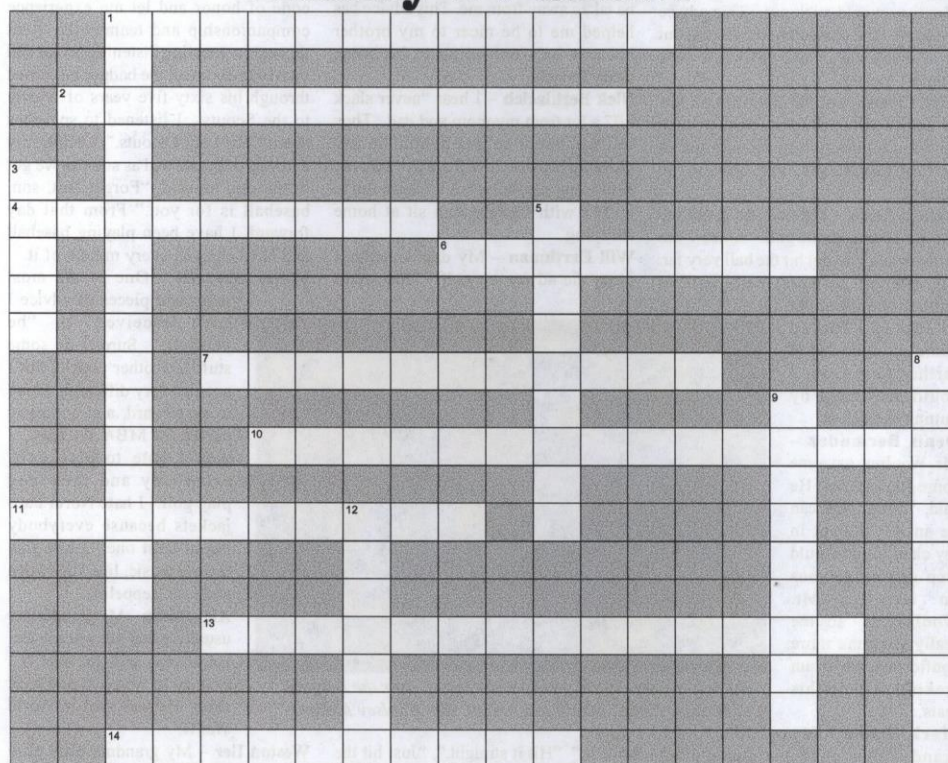
slice it." "Hit it straight." "Just hit the ball." I occasionally get so much advice at one time that I actually forget to hit the ball!

Jack Long-Innes – One time when I was running away from my brother around my house, I turned a corner too early and ran straight into the wall. I fell to the floor and tried to catch my breath. My brother walked over to me and told me that it would probably be easier to run if I did not hit the wall. This advice was not the most helpful I have ever received, but it made me laugh and cheered me up.

Todd Miller – Though moms are known

CROSSWORD

Reality TV Shows



Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com>

Across

1. Unusual and disturbing family life
2. Contestants vie for a record deal
4. Longhorn Skull on front of van
6. CBS will probably create a 7th in Siberia
7. A boyfriend's worst nightmare
10. One woman gets man of her choice
11. Daring stunts for the pot of \$50,000
13. A poor fool gets the cash and the babe
14. Weak attempt to bring back talent show

Down

1. Several couples dragged into a **sea** of attractive singles
3. A view of the star's life (and home)
5. Laser pointers
8. One man has his choice between any of 25 qualified young ladies
9. A view of the world, really.
12. A group of people compete while one has a big secret

position rests in your hands more and more." My dad gave me this advice when I was about ten years old.

William Herbert – One of my coaches told me to keep my elbow high in my stance during baseball. At the time, this was adequate advice, but as some people figured out, it is better not to keep your elbow high. It works for some people, but not for me. As I changed my stance, I began to hit much better.

Treanor Granbery – My dad advised me to always make sure the gun is safe when I go hunting. It helps to be safe. I guess it really would be bad if I shot someone! My dad also told me to start wearing deodorant because people wouldn't want to be around me if I didn't.

Charlie Byrge –

Recently, my mother gave me some advice: "Relax and just be a kid." She gave me this advice because I

was stressing over my grades. My father also said, "You only live once. Have fun in your life."

Rob Campbell – My parents are already giving me advice on how to drive. After someone pulls out in front of us, my mom always says, "Drive defensively because there are always a lot of stupid people out there who don't know what they're doing."

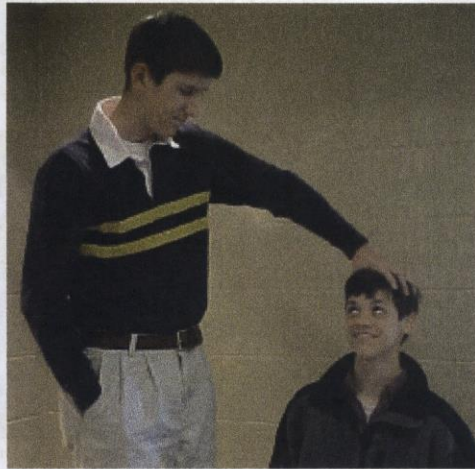
Beau Evers – My mom always tells me to represent my family when I am going to a party, a sports game, or a friend's house. Being a gentleman will earn you friends and respect. You will also get the girls.

Alec McGuffey – Recently, I have taken up writing stories. I send finished copies to my uncle, an editor for the *New York Times*. Several days later, my

computer screen receives his reply giving his thoughts and advice. I diligently transfer his advice to my story, editing and deleting errors and confusing segments.

Jeff Eberle – An important piece of advice comes from my dad. He says that since I am usually the smallest guy on the field, I will just have to work twice as hard and play to the best of my ability.

Nick Drinkwater – Mr. Spiegl says to



"Jeff, you may have to work four times as hard!"

always be doing something. Even if you only have three minutes, you can accomplish something, like getting started on homework.

Adam Speyer – In the past, I used to avoid showers. My mom would always say, "You know what girls hate the most? Dirty fingernails." I finally realized that my mom is right!

Dylan Burroughs – My mother gives me funny advice before I go to the movies on Friday nights. Here are a few things that she might say to me before I go: "Are you gonna kiss any girls?" "You gonna get a girlfriend?" "Don't do anything stupid." "Mommy loves you." (Later, when I actually get to the movies, I do not have to worry about the things my mom tells me, but it still helps to listen.)

Zach Richardson – Mr. Woolsey said that if you ever want to get a girlfriend, just tell her she is as pretty as a perfect square trinomial. I haven't used this advice yet, but it is last on my list of ways to get a girl to like me. Mr. Russell said that I should learn my punctuation because that is what a girl looks for in a guy. He said that commas are especially important.

Miller Bundy – My least favorite piece of advice is something my mother says to me: "Make your bed because your roommates in college won't like you if you don't."

Chet Gormley – I can't forget my parents' advice to me on the way to my first mixer: "Make sure you're very nice to the girls. Compliment their hair or shoes or something." I haven't exactly followed this advice, but it is useful to know.

Tipper Austin – One of my dad's favorite pieces of advice is: "Choose your battles wisely." This advice can be applied in countless situations. He often brings this saying out when I protest one of his rules and he doesn't want to hear it!

Mike Herron – "Reckon the best life is a simple one." During the summer, I worked with a man named Rusty, and all he did was give me advice. "If you keep it simple, it is hard to get in trouble. Why get a fancy car when an old truck will get you where you're going?"

Jonathan Usry – "In almost all competitions, control of the center is key." This advice given by Chuck Lovingood, a chess instructor, is critical in chess and in sports.

Patrick Mehta – "Nothing is hard or easy. It's just different." This advice comes from my dad, who always tell me this when I don't want to try new things or face up to challenges.

Will Bryant – Several years ago, I made some comment about Mexicans, and my dad sat me down for a talk. He told me that my comments showed my ignorance. He told me to think of people as individuals, not a matched set. He said that the mentality I was using was similar to that of racists and bigots. Since then, I have had an accepting mind and a broader worldview.

—AS SEEN ON TV—

Revo Styler || Quesadilla || Flip-Fold

Got bed head? Need a new "do" for the next mixer? The Revo Styler may be for you.

Several serious candidates, Harlan Dodson, Wes Cowden, Garrett Ramsey, and Matt Crook found that this amazing round, rotating brush changed their hair from wild to wonderful, from limp to luscious, formless to fantastic, in just minutes. Simply moisten hair. Then blow dry with one hand and style with the other.

Questions or concerns:

Wouldn't a blow dryer and a regular round brush achieve the same effect? Possibly, but a regular round



The Revo Styler adds volume to Harlan's hapless hair

Maker

By Harrison Brown

Have you ever had that feeling where you just have to have a cheese quesadilla? Of course you have. But when you make your quesadillas, do you burn them? Obviously, you at least become worried about roasting them. Well, worry no more because the Santa Fe Quesadilla Maker

"This is awesome," "cool," "I've never been able to fold like this before." "I'm gonna get one of these, fold all the laundry, and my mom won't know who did it." "It's so easy."—just a few of the comments from seventh and eighth graders who tried the amazing Flip-Fold. Simply lay a tee shirt out flat, face-down, and let Flip-Fold do the rest. Take pride in perfectly folded shirts folded



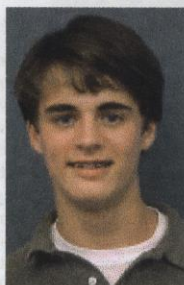
Garrett, Weston, and Matt flip over the Flip-Fold



Before: Deer in the headlights

brush isn't nearly as interesting.

Does the Revo Styler work on all types of hair? We saw best results on longer, coarser hair, but it did seem to smoothe and add volume to fine hair as well.



After: Now I am ready for that business conference!

equally. Cheese quesadillas no longer can be considered Mexican food because they will be cooked in all restaurants and homes all over the world.

make quesadillas by YOU! (Also great for pants, underwear and towels.)

Questions or concerns:

It takes too long to set up the shirt ready to fold! It does take a moment more to prepare the shirt for folding, but the rest of the job is a snap, and the results are worth the effort.



I promise this isn't a toilet.

—CO-ED DAY—

A Day at Harpeth Hall

Media Awareness

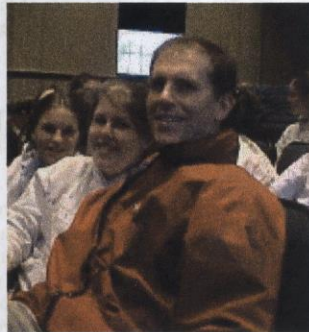
By Stockton Beveridge

Seven students from both MBA (Chase Altenbern, Tipper Austin, Stockton Beveridge, Jamie Fletcher, Weston Iler, Sam Little, and Gentry Smith) and Harpeth Hall met early this year to begin planning a project, which would allow the students to discuss the role and impact that media and stereotypical thinking have on our lives. We were originally supposed to go to Harpeth Hall in January, but snow interfered, and we rescheduled the meeting on February. When we got there, we broke off into many separate groups to discuss the topic, and later split into different groups to discuss it even further. Not only was the day much more fun than an average day at school, but we had the privilege of listening to Beth Hall (Anna and Justin's mom), a singer in the music industry. Highlights of the day included all-you-can-eat pizza, socializing with the girls, and missing a

day of class. Overall, the eighth grade was able to get a lot accomplished. Mrs. Clark from Harpeth Hall and Mr. Thurmond considered the day to be such a success that this discussion will probably become an annual event.



Without the eighth grade leadership, the seventh graders succumb to anarchy.



Even at school, Annie can't escape her father.



Bill chills with the chicks.



Matt and Jeff entertain the Honey Bears with their scintillating conversation.

SPORTS...?

Flub a Dub and a Schlub

By Gentry Smith

Day 1

Miller Bundy and I take our seats in the back of the bus to ride to practice. We practice with the Harpeth Hall girls this year. This is definitely an inconvenience to mine and Miller's swimming. As we are eating Twinkies

never become "speedo" quality. As practice winds down and Miller and I are definitely not tired (wink, wink), we put back on our clothes and ventured home.

Day 27

Miller and I are completely in shape for the Olympics now. After our first meet, we have officially moved up from dead last in our events to second to last (Thanks, Emfinger). The intense training of Coach Carter has kept us in shape, even though we slacked when we were in the slow lane. Since practicing at the Sportsplex, after our four-hour practice we went to the ice rink and skated in our speedos while

bathing suits today. Miller and I are completely focused and ready to help the team win. Miller got 86th in region and I, .0007 seconds behind him, got 87th. We are proud.

Day 216

Miller and I have qualified for state (nudge, nudge); we are planning on winning. It is now Miller's turn to swim the butterfly, but where is he? He is with a girl and has been disqualified. That stud. Now it is my turn in the butterfly. I am disqualified for being too good for the others. Miller's and my hard work has become a waste of time. Wait till next year. You will be shocked out of your minds at the intensity of mine and Miller's percentage of body fat.



Not quite a six-pack

and Ho'Ho's, William Emfinger declares to the whole bus that he can beat everyone up. (Note: There were two juniors, three sophomores, two freshmen, and the ever powerful Miller and Gentry aboard the bus.) We arrive at practice, and Miller and I shove a couple gummy bears down, put on our speedos and walk out to the pool parading our six packs, of flub that is. As we jump in and begin to get the rust out of our Olympic-quality strokes, Emfinger was trying to figure out how to put on his bathing suit. He would

eat a couple slices of pizza. Miller and I have decided to get bigger so we can become more buoyant.

Day 99

Emfinger is dead. He could not handle the ardor of swimming. We grieve his death, but

Miller and I have to keep our focus, which is quite hard when you have all of those Harpeth Hall upperclass women swooning for you. Miller and I never ever watch the Harpeth Hall girls before and after practice in their bathing suits, because we are "*Gentlemen*, scholars, and *ATHLETES*," we promise.

Day 189

Today is the region swim meet. To our disadvantage, Miller and I unfortunately have to watch girls from all around Middle Tennessee swim in

Churchball

By Stockton Beveridge

For those of you who don't quite have the skills to play for the MBA basketball program, I pity you. Where do you go to play when you have been cut? What can you do to get better? If you have been beating yourself up and are on the brink of a depression-crazed insanity, LET THERE BE LIGHT! Turn to church basketball for your source of sport. Although the competition may not be as tough as it would be if one were playing for his school, it's tons more fun. You don't even have to practice to participate. There were a number of MBA Microbes that played this year, including Patrick Quinn, Gentry Smith, Garrett Ramsey, Matthew Kimball, Jamie Fletcher, Tipper Austin, Kevin Thomas, Jordan Jenkins, Nathan Sears, Beau Evers, Will Adams, Zann Berry, Morey Hill, Sam Robinson, and myself. For all you fellas who want to play next year, talk to me or any of the people listed.

— AT KNIGHT —

Behind the Scenes of *Knight*

By Jordan Jenkins

If you saw *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*, you know that it is a

hilarious romantic comedy which is continuously interrupted by a citizen and his wife who wish to see a play about a grocer. This husband and wife have an apprentice, Rafe, who plays a grocer turned knight; Rafe spends most of the play trying to find something to fight, eventually winning a conflict with Barberosa, superbly played by Doug Altenbern. Throughout most of the play, the citizen and his wife not only change the play and interject strange and sometimes rude remarks to the actors but also eat a ton of food, including bananas, chicken, and cookies!

The leading roles are Rafe, the Citizen, the Citizen's wife, Mr. Merrythought, Mrs.

Merrythought, Luce, Jasper, and Humphrey. These parts were respectively performed by Ben Pote, Richard Howell, Katie Tompkins, Rob DeLaney, Liz Warner, Wesley Hughes, Paul Reynolds, and Timothy Vaughn. Ben, Rob, and Katie spiced up each show with spur-of-the-moment acting that usually left the actors offstage rolling on the floor with laughter.

There were several junior school students who had a tremendous impact on the play. Bennett Davison, who played "Boy who Danceth and Singth" (although we never heard him sing), was in most acts and in every interlude.



Sam Robinson as the Squire Tapstero

Sam Robinson, who played a servant and the Squire Tapstero, delivered a stunning performance even with a limited number of lines. Gentry Smith and Chase Altenbern delivered smashing monologues, as well as playing soldiers in the army. Finally, I played Tim, a squire, and spent most of the time on stage looking scared and carrying a sword, for what purpose still



Bennett Davidson as A Boy

It was great fun working on the play. Despite the long hours and



Dr. Fuller and Mr. Morrison are both very happy.

sometimes grueling task of getting homework done while listening for my cue to go on stage, I can safely speak for all the cast when I say the whole experience was a blast. We all made some new friends in the high school, as well as getting to know our fellow junior schoolers a little better. I would highly suggest that you consider auditioning for a play, especially if you never do sports. In the high school, your first



Jordan Jenkins as Tim the Squire

play counts as a sport! Finally, I would like to say that for all of those people who think it is a daunting task to learn so many lines, don't sweat it! We spent three months preparing the play, plenty of time to learn all your lines.

OUR GRANDPARENTS REMEMBER

After some seventh graders in their English class read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, set in the early 30's and *The Road to Memphis*, set in the early 40's, they were asked to find out about their families' lives during these periods. After interviewing parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, students heard many stories they had never heard before and made discoveries about their own family history.

Clay Christian's grandmother, Betty Hobbs, had a hard time during WWII because her husband, Hugh, was fighting in the South Pacific, but she didn't know exactly where he was. It turned out he made five landings on different islands in the Pacific. He was firing field artillery during the war and wrote letters as often as he could, but he could not give away his location, for the enemy might intercept the letter.

Nicholas Burns' grandmother talked of "swimming" in Lake Erie at Crystal Beach unless there was a polio scare, of walking home from school with her sweetheart who bought her a strawberry sundae for fifteen cents, the rationing of meat, sugar, shoes and gasoline and people coloring their margarine yellow to look like butter, of Victory Gardens, "No Fourth Term" signs when Roosevelt announced his intention to run again, and of a trip to South and not understanding why she was told not to sit in the back of the bus.

Lindsay Bohannon's grandfather, Bobby Matthews, would take the family's Oldsmobile to a country road parallel to the railroad tracks, and wherever a train came by, he would put the pedal to the metal and race the train to a bridge, trying to cross the bridge before the train ran under it. He remembered listening to other people's conversations on their four family phone line, making his own money by selling cold drinks at MBA tennis matches...until he was banned, then returning to sell popcorn, going to

movies twenty minutes early and seeing news that was about a month old, stickers that denoted gas rationing amounts, and joining the army in 1946 as a code breaker.

Robert Rolfe's grandfather, Big Charlie, remembers going on a date with Maggie (Robert's grandmother) during a big snowstorm despite warnings from his dad. Walking over the frozen lake at Centennial Park, he fell through the ice, and his pants froze. Then his car got stuck, and he walked in the freezing blizzard to Lawson's gas station around 9:00. He remembers drive-in restaurants where waiters would come out on skates to take your order. Varallo's restaurant had a special way of making chili. They put tamale at the bottom, the chili in the middle, and spaghetti on top.

Andrew Harris's grandfather, Coy Collinsworth, remembers that during the Depression, his house had a sign in the front yard that notified that they would give food to any homeless. In college his grandfather fell in love with boxing. He fought every night of every week, and his parents had no idea he was doing it. His college "big brother" trained him and signed him up for the Golden Glove tournament, in which he was a finalist in his weight class.

In 1944, **Travis Tipton's** grandfather, Winston Frederick Tipton, was sent to China to fight against the Japanese. He was also a liaison for the Chinese and the U.S. helping set up relations with the Chinese army. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and was given three Battle Stars, even though he was never actually in combat.

Brandon Titus's grandmother, Mary Titus, remembered that someone actually drove a pickup truck across the Cumberland River when it froze over in the early thirties. She said she joined the Marine Corps during her lunch break from Draughon's Business College, where she was taking classes. In order to get into the Marine Corps, a

recruit was required to be five feet tall. She was only 4'11". When asked how she managed to get into the Marines, she said, "If you try, you can stretch at least an inch."

Taylor Colbert's grandparents remember the games they played: softball, fox and hound, Chinese checkers, cut the pie, crack the whip, bingo, four-card solitaire, Rook, pretty bird, and state your trade. His grandmother mentioned going bowling or to the theater with her childhood boyfriend, Cloyd. Cloyd's twin brother was Floyd, but their nicknames were Cookie and Cakie. During the Depression, both families suffered. His great grandmother, who was the school superintendent's secretary, was forced to take on another job at a weapons base. His grandfather's parents worked for the WPA.

Brendan Mayhew's grandmother remembers playing a game in which a person would hit a metal hoop with a stick down the street and a game called "Annie Over," in which two people would toss a ball over the house back and forth. His grandfather, when asked if he had any good school bully stories, joked, "I was the school bully." He remembered that once a bully threw a rock at his head, and he went over to the boy and bled all over his clean, white shirt.

Ben Fredericks's grandfather went hunting in Colorado and had to stop because of the Dust Bowl. The dust was so heavy that people were sealing up windows and doors and covering up with wet towels. The sand was up to the roofs of some houses.

Robbie Welkert's grandmother, Patricia Kerns, said that her brother fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where he was shot by a bullet that did not kill him. Instead, it hit his Bible that he kept in his pocket.

One of **Tee Stumb's** grandfathers, Paul Stumb, said that his mother was a "gold-star mom." He had an uncle who was shot down over

Germany and killed. His wife was expecting a baby, and people think that he never got the letter that contained that message. Pete Cavert is buried in Northern France. His other grandfather, Jimmy Denton's uncle, was in the Battle of the Bulge, and his grandmother, Bernice Denton's father, was a doctor who left his practice to serve in the Korean War. There is a hospital named for him in Korea, the Cleo Miller Hospital.

Robert Awh's grandfather was born in a small village in South Korea in the thirties. His parents were poor farmers and their house had no electricity or indoor plumbing. During college he fled over the 38th parallel because of the start of the Korean War. He tried to find work as a civilian translator, but no job offered enough money to live on. He realized that if he signed up for the U.S. Marines, they would give him food and a place to sleep while he worked. On his first day of work as a marine, he was shipped out to Cohang in one of several groups, with the mission to warn civilians. His grandpa's group survived, but another group was assaulted by guerrillas and wiped out.

Bennett Davidson's grandmother, Barry Gibbs, remembers that she and her family were washing the family car and heard from a neighbor that the president had just declared war. Everyone dropped the rags, and the whole family went inside and listened to the radio. She and her friends ordered WAC "costumes" (uniforms) and had secret meetings in her large closet. They pretended they were in the war and invented a secret code and special passwords.

Swan Burrus's grandfather, Swan, remembered trying to play baseball in spite of the mean neighbor who had a keen eye for baseballs. Every time a ball was hit into her yard, she would run out and grab it; the baseball was considered lost. One day, as a joke, he got a mock orange and covered it with dust and threw it into her yard. She ran out, picked it up, and brought it inside. This prank became a hobby for the Burrus boys.

Caleb Coker's grandfather remembers taking twenty cents to school for a hot dog and RC Cola and five cents for a candy bar. His grandmother remembered being a tomboy and, as a little girl, beating up a boy for cutting her cat's whiskers off.

Austin Branstetter's great grandmother, Flora Lawhon, said that their family's first car was a Winston 6 and was one of the very first cars in Houston. When they drove down the main street, many people stared at them because the people had never seen a car before.

John Moynihan's grandfather, who lived in a small neighborhood outside of Moline, Illinois, remembers that since money and material were short at the time, his mother made him a pair of pants out of an old, worn-out overcoat. He hated the pants but was forced to wear them on several occasions. He told about a game in which two boys would stand four feet away from each other, each holding an open pocketknife. One boy would throw the knife into the ground, and the other boy would have to put his foot next to it. The contestants would go back and forth until one player fell down. In those days it was not uncommon for young men to carry pocketknives to school every day.

Morey Hill's grandfather, Elmore Hill, who attended Duncan School, remembers that the main punishment there was whipping. He said he was whipped every year he was there from first to twelfth. In first grade he put a tack on a seat, and someone sat on it.

Scott Larson's grandmother Florence remembers that her family got the second car produced by Dodge. They had to wait on the waiting list for over a year for it. It was a 1946 four-door sedan with "fluid drive." The only add-on feature was a heater! The car did not come with a radio because, in those days, an average sized radio was a little bit bigger than a shoebox. The car cost exactly \$1,386.15.

Joe Thompson, **Will Orman's** grandfather, remembers going to The Wallace School at the age of 14. He paid

ten cents to ride the bus every day, but he would have to walk twelve blocks to get to school after getting off at 8th Avenue. The cost to go there was \$140.00 a year. Each student had to take four years of Latin, mathematics and Bible study. This school was so devout in teaching its students Christianity that if a student was late and missed hearing the principal read the Bible in the morning, he had to stay two hours after school. MBA was one of Wallace's rivals in the 1930s. When the war started, Mr. Wallace went to teach the remaining students at MBA. Wallace never reopened after the war.

Chase Taylor's grandfather, Weldon Chase, was a Sergeant in the 10th Mountain Division and fought the Axis Powers on skis in the Italian Alps. Both of his grandmothers, Nancy Bryan Taylor and Clarice Orff Chase, known as Rusty, remember helping the cause at home. Nancy grew vegetables and rolled bandages for the Red Cross. Rusty remembers the rationing and blackouts. Every night the whole town would close their shutters so no light was emitted. Rusty's father was an air raid warden who would go around and check everyone's shutters. Cars all had cat-eye-like lights that shed less light.

Mary Elizabeth Ramsey, **John Ramsey's** grandmother, was only twelve when WWII began and did not understand the danger her three brothers could be in until she got a call from her grandmother one day saying that her cousin Jack had just been killed. Jack was a fighter pilot who crashed in England on his twenty-first birthday.

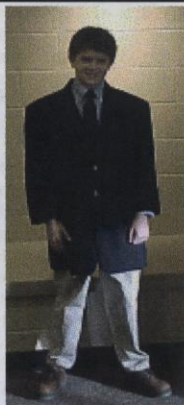
Daniel Van Jelgerhuis's great grandfather remembers a great prank. He put horse droppings in a purse and set it on a sidewalk so that someone would pick it up, expecting to get money. When they did, they got a big surprise!

Roy Hugh Ryan, **Andy McLaughlin's** grandfather, remembers a tornado that hit his town Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1936. It touched down close to their farm and killed hundreds of people, many of whom they knew. His family was greatly affected by the Great Depression. They lost their farm and had to start over until later, when they inherited his grandad's land.

MIXED BAG



Clayton rejoices over his ping-ponging.



Caleb Coker saves a buck by purchasing a jacket which will last his entire MBA career.



Dylan aces the competition.



Trey and Harlan need to speak with Caleb about jacket longevity.



Stephen and his partner whoop up on the competition.



Ben's blonde hair bedazzles his bowling buddy.

Junior Honor Society Members

Chase Altenbern

Tipper Austin

Adam Baker

Stockton Beveridge

Harrison Brown

Kyle Davis

William Emfinger

Jamie Fletcher

Russell Mack

Patrick Mehta

Mark Piana

Zach Richardson

Nathan Sears

Miller Sherill

Alex Smith

Jonathan Usry

JAMBALAYA

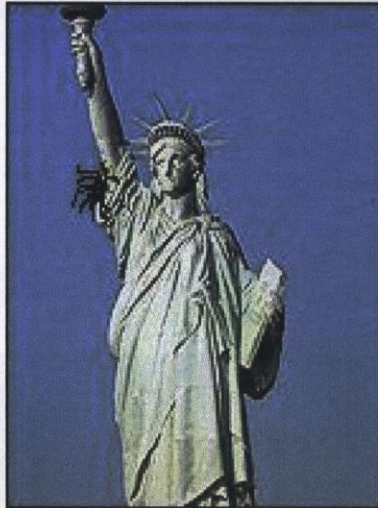
Those French, Again!

By Everitte Barbee

As far as I know, we are not sure if we have killed Saddam. Another fact that I have failed to research is how many are counted as dead, wounded, or how much money we have spent. In fact, I have done no research at all on Iraq. What I would like to focus on is the French. Does anyone like the French? Seriously, how have they survived for so long? The only famous Frenchman that I can recall (that was not a sissy painter) is Napoleon. He was a midget that conquered Europe--woohoo! But how many people have done that? Sorry, I'm out of fingers, and even after he conquered it, he only held it for a few years. The only great talent that the French have ever acquired is surrendering; it only took them about a week in World War II, maybe two in World War I.

Their pride comes from their language. Why? They didn't make it; they took it from the Romans and changed a few syllables and called it French. Why was the international business language French? Because it sounds cool? Because France is the only country who has no businesses? Maybe we just felt sorry for them, and gave them the International Language Award. It must be kind of like the Coaches Award, the award that goes to the worst player on the team, but the coach feels bad that the kid didn't get an award, so he gives him this one.

Have the French ever built anything interesting or useful? Actually they have--they built the rear-



Lady Liberty sports the European look.

view mirror so that they could see the battles, and they made a tank with six gears (five of which are reverse, and the sixth is forward, just in case they get attacked from behind). They also sent us the Statue of Liberty, which is pretty cool after you shave the armpit hair off of it. And then they built the Eiffel

Tower...oh, wait! That doesn't count; nobody cares about that.

The only place the French are very active is in their own country and in Africa, and the only reason they are in Africa is because they can beat most of the poor armies there. How dishonorable is that? They even cheated in the Olympics. Who would cheat in the Olympics? How stupid is that? I still don't understand why they don't want to fight Iraq; their argument of its being "unjust" is simply another one of their excuses because they know we are right. Do they actually think that this third world country could beat them? Well, maybe they're right, but that's a risk that the rest of the world is willing to take.

Through this article I just wanted to say that I oppose French opposition (wait, that sounds kind of weird) to the war in Iraq, as well as anything the French say, for that matter. I fully support our troops in Iraq and all the lunch ladies out there serving freedom fries and freedom toast.



Don't get MAD! Get Glad!

SPORTS

8th Grade Ballaz

By Adam Baker

The eighth-grade basketball team had its ups and downs this year. After a poor start, which included being trounced by Brentwood Academy and not playing well in the Overbrook Tournament, we emerged as a new team after the winter break. With fresh legs and an injury-free team, we bounced back to put on a winning streak before the HVAC Tournament. We did not reach

our goal of winning the tournament, but we did play exceptionally better against BA (coming in at about sixty points better). Overall, most felt that we could have done better, but it ended up being a fun season. Roster: Drew Andrews, Adam Baker, Charlie Byrge, Ben Daniel, Harlan Dodson, Treanor Granbery, Josh Henley, Jack Hudson, Sam Little, Guy McClure, Todd Miller, Prabodh Mishra, Charlie Plageman, Marcus Bodie (Coach), and Weston Cowden (Manager).

LaXative ?

By Everitte Barbee

Being the lazy bum that I am, I decided to be one of those few people who don't do a spring sport. These sports include baseball, track (the one that nobody cares about), tennis, and lacrosse. My knowledge of lacrosse began later than most people; the first time I saw a lacrosse shirt was in the fourth grade. The shirt had the following written on the back: "New York LaX

some new sport. A few years later I began to understand the sport a little bit more. These sticks threw a ball toward a net. Interesting. How original. So I decided to try it. The first chance that came to my disposal was at *Boxwell*, a Boy Scout camp. And believe it or not, I was a Boy Scout. At this camp, my friend had a lacrosse stick and a ball. Another camper let me borrow his stick. My friend and I began throwing the hard rubber ball back and forth in the middle of our campsite. The first throw wasn't so bad. I hit a tent, but no harm was

done. During the second throw, my friend managed to catch the ball, after a running start. On my third toss, I hit a swimmer. Well, you see, the camp docks were located right next to our campsite, and we were fairly close to the water. The swimmer was about ten yards out, but it really was not my fault; it was the tree's. The ball hit the tree, ricocheted off, and hit the swimmer's leg. He was fine, but I got a small lecture from this fat guy who was supposedly a swim instructor; I could see why...he floated really well. The swimmer reached down in the four-foot-deep water and threw the ball back. Because I never started much, I never quit much, so I kept trying. The next two throws went well; my friend

caught the first, and the other hit the ground. This last shot put an end to my lacrosse career. I hit and shattered a camp lantern, which, according to the Scout Leader, was very expensive and irreplaceable. I was no longer allowed to throw the lacrosse ball at *Boxwell*. Lacrosse is still a sport that confuses me. These confusions vary from "regulation pocket size" to the different positions. At least now when I see "LaX," I don't think of suppositories or any types of medication.



Laxers celebrate their unblemished record.

Team-XIV." With the great Overbrook education that I had at the time, I figured that "XIV" was some Roman numeral. But the mystery was with the "LaX". The only word that came to mind was "laxative", and I thought, "What on earth does this team do.....?" But luckily enough for my mind, I saw the two lacrosse sticks on the bottom of the shirt. I had seen two big, ugly guys running around the park with these not too long ago, so I figured this must be

MORE TOYS

Pokemon rose to power. The little Japanese characters started one of the greatest trends ever, capturing the minds of innocent little kids, and tempting them to spend money on action figures of Pikachu, cards of Charizard, movies of Bulbasaur, the popular Gameboy series, and other paraphernalia of the Pokemon. The frenzied card and merchandise trading began and soon was banned by many schools. These little, animated, animal-like creatures definitely took a chunk out of mom and dad's wallets, as kids purchased several \$3 packs of cards, multiple times per week. The Pokemon Legend would have been given a better rating if they hadn't overwhelmed their customers with so many different creatures and had stuck to the basic 150, instead of approximately 500. The Poke'mon Enterprise receives a 9.5/10.

In sixth grade, a good old bicycle just wouldn't do; kids had to have a

Razor Scooter. These high-grade aluminum apparatuses came in many different styles, off-road and "trickster," and colors, such as red and blue. They were very convenient for a quick ride



Giga Pets

for his cell phone. However, they were awfully pricey and had many knock-offs. The Razor receives a 7.9/10.

Seventh and eighth grades



Pokemon: The Movie

words: Hackey Sack. 4/10

And finally, the latest trend is the North Face Jacket. Coming in blues, grays, reds, yellow (in Matthew



The vivid Viper

Kimball's case), and black. The most popular type is the North Face Denali. These are quite pricey, but are



Ash and Pikachu

comfortable and long lasting. The North Face obtains an 8/10.

Well, that basically raps up the hottest trends over the years. Yeah, there might be others, but these are definitely the most well known. So, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, which came about when we were just wee little tikes, wins the *Top of the Hill Trend Championship*. Sorry if this offends anyone or makes you sad.

fig-
-two



Different Perspectives: A view from the dance floor at the eighth grade mixer

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